



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 OCTOBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – LAPD Reports 400% Increase in Recovered Ghost Guns Since 2017

(U) Amid an increase in homicides and gun violence in Los Angeles and nationwide, the Los Angeles Police Department reported to the police commission yesterday on the “epidemic” of ghost guns, which the department says have increased “exponentially over the last year.” The virtually untraceable weapons, which don't have serial numbers, has increased by about 400% in Los Angeles since 2017, according to the LAPD's data on recovered firearms.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [Fox 11 Los Angeles](#)

(U) Riverbank – Man Pleads Guilty to Possessing Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

(U) Juan Carlos Cortez-Gomez, 51, of Riverbank, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. According to court documents, on 15 September 2020, Cortez-Gomez agreed to sell methamphetamine to an FBI informant. When Cortez-Gomez arrived at the location for the sale, he was arrested by officers. A search of his truck revealed 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

SOURCE: 18 October 2021, [US DOJ](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – CBP Will Pilot Body Scanning Technologies at US Pedestrian Border Crossings For 30 Days

(U) Nogales – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is piloting body scanning technologies at pedestrian border crossings in Arizona and California to detect weapons and other contraband moving through ports of entry without having to stop every person in line for a physical search. The new Pedestrian Detection-at-Range system will take video and photo images of travelers, then overlay those images with thermal scans looking for items hidden under clothing. The new system is getting a trial run at five ports of entry: Port of Nogales, Arizona and San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Cross Border Express, and Tecate border crossings in California.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [Nextgov](#)

(U) California – Knock and Talk Leads to Five Arrests, Multiple Weapons and Contraband Seized

(U) Calexico – El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents arrested five undocumented individuals and seized multiple semi-automatic weapons in a joint effort. Items seized included, two semi-automatic AR-15 rifles, four semi-automatic pistols, a single revolver, three sets of ballistic body armor, ammunition, and a cattle prod all inside a trailer home. Agents observed a silver Chevrolet Impala on Interstate 8 exhibiting signs consistent with human smuggling and proceeded to initiate a consensual request to inspect the residence they travelled to, which resulted in the discovery and seizure of these items.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – FBI Raids Washington, New York Homes Linked to Russian Oligarch

(U) Washington – FBI agents yesterday raided homes in Washington and New York City linked to Oleg Deripaska, a Russian billionaire with ties to the Kremlin and to Paul Manafort. A spokesperson for the FBI confirmed the agency was conducting a court-authorized law enforcement activity at the home, which the Washington Post has previously reported was linked to the Russian oligarch. The specific reason for sealing off and searching the Washington mansion was not immediately clear, and the FBI spokesperson did not provide details.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – TSA Reports Record Number of Gun Seizures at Security Checkpoints

(U) Washington – According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), more people are trying to take firearms onboard commercial aircraft. TSA officers have confiscated a record number of guns at airport security checkpoints this year, setting a 20-year high, despite fewer passengers having flown this year due to COVID-19.

SOURCE: 15 October 2021, [Security Today](#)

(U) Florida – Nikolas Cruz Pleads Guilty to Parkland School Shooting

(U) Fort Lauderdale – Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty today to killing 17 people — 14 students and 3 staff members — at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., avoiding a trial but setting up a fight over his punishment for the 2018 attack. Cruz's defense team is hoping to avoid the death sentence that prosecutors are seeking.

SOURCE: 20 October 2021, [NPR](#)

(U) North Carolina – Bomb Threat on NC State Campus Deemed Not Credible, Police Investigating

(U) Raleigh – A bomb threat made against N.C. State University late Monday night was found not credible, the university says. A campus security alert had previously said a threat was received around 11:15 p.m. and targeted an unidentified university data center. University Police were notified Tuesday morning, and the alert was sent at 9:33 a.m. A university spokesperson said police have determined the threat was not credible and there is no ongoing danger to the campus.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [The News & Observer](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Ex-German Soldiers Arrested Over Alleged Terror Plot in Yemen's War

(U) Munich – Two former German soldiers have been arrested on suspicion of trying to form a terrorist mercenary force to fight in Yemen's civil war, prosecutors say. Arend-Adolf G and Achim A face terrorism charges after police raids in southern Germany today. They allegedly planned to recruit up to 150 men for a private army made up of former police officers and soldiers.

SOURCE: 20 October 2021, [BBC](#)

(U) Haiti – Gang Seeks \$1 Million Per Person for Kidnapped Missionaries

(U) Titanyen – A Haitian gang that kidnapped a group of American and Canadian missionaries is asking for \$17 million, or \$1 million each, to release them, according to a top Haitian official. Talks are reportedly underway with kidnappers to seek the release of the missionaries abducted over the

weekend by a gang called 400 Mawozo. CNN reported yesterday the kidnappers first called Christian Aid Ministries, the group to which the victims belonged, on Saturday and immediately conveyed the price tag for the missionaries' release.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Ex-Mexican Federal Officer Admits to Taking Bribes from Cartel

(U) Mexico City – A former Mexican federal police commander admitted yesterday that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to help cartels ship cocaine into the United States. Ivan Reyes Arzate served for years as a main point of contact for intelligence sharing between the United States and the Mexican federal police. He pleaded guilty in US District Court in New York to conspiring with the El Seguimiento 39 drug cartel, which authorities said is associated with the Sinaloa Cartel.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [AP](#)

(U) Senegal – Senegal Seized Record Two Tons of Cocaine Off Atlantic Coast

(U) Dakar – Senegal seized more than two tons of pure cocaine from a ship off its Atlantic coast, the navy said yesterday, in the West African country's largest ever cocaine bust. The 2,026 kilograms of cocaine was found on a ship 363 kilometers off the coast by naval forces backed by air support from the French air force, the navy said in a statement. The ship had five crew members aboard, it added.

SOURCE: 19 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.